

SALOMONIA CILIATA (POLYGALACEAE), A NEW GENERIC PLANT RECORD FROM THE KIMBERLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Salomonium ciliatum (L.) DC. f. *ciliatum* (Polygalaceae), the first member of its genus to be recorded from Western Australia, is described and illustrated from plant material collected in the Kimberley. The key to Polygalaceae in the "Flora of the Kimberley Region" is amended to include this genus.

INTRODUCTION

A new generic record *Salomonium* Lour. (Polygalaceae), is reported from the Kimberley, Western Australia. *Salomonium ciliatum* L. (DC.) f. *ciliatum* is a widespread tropical species (van der Meijden 1984; Koyama 1995), previously known in Australia from the Northern Territory and Queensland. The typical form has now been collected in the Kimberley from seasonally wet herbfields fringing creeks and river systems. In these situations it is relatively cryptic and this may explain how it has been overlooked until recently. It can be readily identified from species in the genus *Polygala* (which it resembles) by the capsule bearing marginal teeth or spines.

A recently described form (*S. ciliatum* f. *pubescens* H. Koyama) from Thailand is characterized by having long hairs at the margins of the leaves.

DESCRIPTION

SALOMONIA Lour.

Small erect annual herbs with aromatic roots. *Leaves* small, alternate, shortly petiolate or sessile. *Flowers*

crowded in terminal racemes or spikes. *Sepals* 5, unequal, inner 2 larger. *Petals* 3. *Stamens* united into a sheath adnate to base of corolla, anthers 4 or 5, with a terminal pore. *Ovary* 2-locular. *Capsule* membranous, laterally compressed, loculicidally dehiscent, the margin of each cell with a double row of 6-10 short or long teeth or spines. *Seeds* orbicular, laterally flattened, strophiole very small or absent.

Amendment to Family 96
Polygalaceae in *Flora of the Kimberley Region* (Wheeler *et al.* 1992)

- 1 Stamens 4-5. Capsule with marginal teeth or spines SALOMONIA
- 1 Stamens 8. Capsule with entire margins 2
- 2 Keel petal not crested. Seeds shortly hairy and with a coma, without a caruncle COMESPERMA
- 2 Keel petal crested with appendages. Seeds hairy but lacking a coma, with a conspicuous caruncle POLYGALA

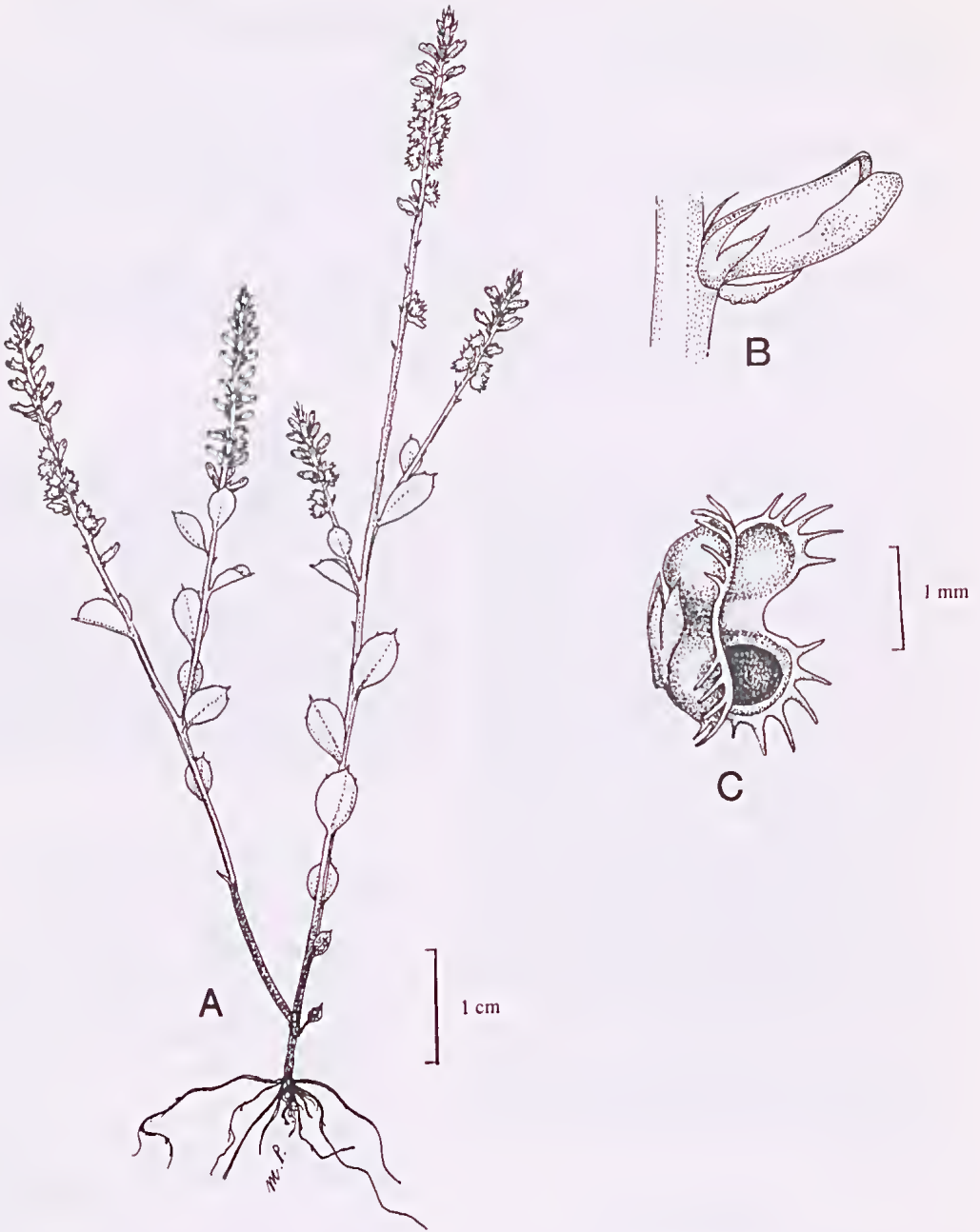


Figure 1. *Salomonina ciliata* A—flowering plant, B—flower, C—lateral view of capsule showing seed. Drawn from Kenneally 11487

Salomonium ciliatum (L.) DC. forma *ciliatum*

Polygala ciliata L.; *Salomonium oblongifolium* DC.

Slender erect glabrous herb to 34 cm tall; stems ribbed, glabrous. Leaves scattered, sessile, ovate-oblong, 3–10 mm x 1–4 mm, apex obtuse, mucronate, margin usually entire, rarely sparsely ciliate. Spikes many-flowered, at first short and compact, later elongate, terminal. Sepals 1 mm, green, lanceolate acuminate, 2 small and one larger; wing sepals obovate. Corolla cream with pinkish mauve tinge, 2 mm long, wing petals shorter than keel. Anthers 4, monadelphous. Capsule membranous, laterally compressed, c. 2 mm wide, the margins bordered with a fringe of short or long teeth or spines. Seeds orbicular, black, smooth, strophiole very small or absent. (Figure 1)

Specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 82 km N of Beverley Springs Homestead on Munja track, 16°59'S 125°19'E, 23 December 1992, R.L. Barrett 420 (PERTH); King Edward River Crossing on track to Mitchell Plateau, 14°03'S 126°12'E, 23 June 1994, K.F. Kenneally 11467 (PERTH); McDonald Creek on road to Kalumburu, 14°54'S 126°15'E, 25 June 1994, K.F. Kenneally 11487 (PERTH).

Distribution. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Gardner Botanical District, Northern Botanical District (Beard 1980); AUSTRALIA: N.T. and Qld.; WORLD: Sri Lanka, Bangla Desh, south and east India, Burma, Japan, Thailand, throughout Malesia and extending into New Guinea.

Ecology. In seasonally wet herbfields on sandy or clay soils, often fringing creeks or rivers.

Flowering period. December–June.

Conservation status. CALM Con-

servation Codes for Western Australian Flora: Priority Three – Poorly Known Taxa – known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered).

Etymology. The name *Salomonium* was given by Loureiro to honour the famous Jewish King Salomo, "the first botanist."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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